



Retiree Benefit Focus

September 2009

Department of Administration, Office of Group Insurance

Regarding Transition to Private Health Insurance

Dear State of Idaho Retiree,

As you know, the 2009 Legislature passed House Bill 173. House Bill 173 changed eligibility for participation in the retiree medical plan to no longer include retirees and their dependents who are age 65 or older. The Department of Administration traveled the state during August meeting with our retirees to begin the process of helping you move from the State's plan to the private plan of your choice.

At all of our meetings, the Department was accompanied by representatives from the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors group (SHIBA). SHIBA is a state and federally sponsored program whose mission is to meet with retirees who are or soon will become Medicare eligible, to help them sort through the many, many private Medicare supplemental plans available. SHIBA offers free and unbiased information, counseling, and assistance regarding senior health insurance. SHIBA does not sell insurance, recommend policies, agents, or specific companies. It is their goal to provide you with up-to-date and objective information to assist you in making informed buying decisions.

SHIBA has four regional offices in Idaho. They also have numerous representatives in many communities in the state. Please call the regional office closest to you and ask for contact information for your local representative.

<u>Boise</u>	<u>Coeur d'Alene</u>	<u>Twin Falls</u>	<u>Pocatello</u>
334-4352 or 334-4353 800-247-4422	208-666-6847 800-488-5725	208-736-4713 800-488-5731	208-236-6044 800-488-5764

We encourage all retirees to meet with a SHIBA representative to help you make the best choice possible when switching to a new health insurance carrier. Please remember that you must sign up with another health insurance carrier by January 1, 2010.

Over the next several months you will be receiving a number of mailings regarding this change to your health insurance and how to proceed with making this change. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We will also be posting information regularly to the website noted below.

Sincerely,

Office of Group Insurance

208-332-1860

800-531-0597

Email: ogi@adm.idaho.gov

Website: <http://adm.idaho.gov/insurance/retired.htm>

What Does House Bill 173 Mean To Me?

House Bill 173 was signed in to law during the 2009 session of the Idaho Legislature. This legislation changes the eligibility for access to the retiree medical plan. Effective January 1, 2010 retirees and dependents age 65 and over will no longer be eligible to participate in the Retiree Medical plan. They will have to purchase a Medicare supplement plan.

What Happens To My Spouse's Medical Coverage If I Am Over 65 And My Spouse Is Under 65?

If you are an over 65 retiree with an under 65 spouse, your under 65 spouse may stay on the state plan until they reach the age of 65.

This publication presents general benefit information. In the event of any conflict between the information in this publication and the Plan provisions, the Plan documents and insurance contracts will govern.

Return Service Requested

State of Idaho
Department of Administration
Office of Group Insurance
650 West State Street, Room 145
Boise, Idaho 83720-0035



DO NOT DISCARD Important Information About
Your State Retiree Medical Plans Information

PRESORT
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BOISE, ID
PERMIT #1